

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 12, 14, and 16 are herein canceled without prejudice. Claims 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent application publication 2005/0153725 to Naghian et al. (herein “Naghian”) in view of U.S. patent 7,027,432 to Carolan et al. (herein “Carolan”) and U.S. patent application publication 2003/0065749 to Gailey et al. (herein “Gailey”). That rejection is traversed by the present response as now discussed.

The present response cancels claims 12 and 16 without prejudice and adds new independent claims 17 and 18 for examination. New claims 17 and 18 recite certain features from previously pending claims 12 and 16, and also make certain clarifications therein. In that respect new independent claims 17 and 18 specifically recite terminal information received from a mobile terminal which has a possibility to be a destination of packet transfer from the transfer device and includes “at least a Link Care of Address (LCoA) or a Regional Care of Address (RCoA), the Link Care of Address including a network prefix of the access router, which is used to transfer the packets from the transfer device to the mobile terminal, the Regional Care of Address including a network prefix of another transfer device managed by the first communications carrier and which is located in the access network or on boundary of the access network”.

The claims are directed to a transfer device and mobile communication method in a mobile communication system in which mobile terminals that join in a mobility management service provided by their own separate communication carriers can use a mobility management service even if the mobile stations use a connection management service provided and are controlled by another communications carrier due to traveling, so that it

becomes possible to sufficiently acquire users (subscribers) of the mobility management service.¹

As recited in the claims, the terminal information includes at least either of a Link Care of Address (LCoA) received from the mobile terminal indicating a network prefix of the access router, or a Regional Care of Address (RCoA) received from the mobile terminal, indicating a network preface for another transfer device managed by the first communications carrier.

One feature to which the claims are directed, and with reference to Figure 1 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, is to allow a mobile terminal 20 which, for example, is managed by the access network (A) of a first communications carrier to also operate with another access network (B) that is managed by a separate second communications carrier. In that respect the claims as currently written are specifically directed to an environment in which different access networks (A), (B) are managed by different communications carriers. Applicants submit the features of the claimed invention are neither taught nor suggested by either of the applied art to Naghian nor Carolan.

The above-noted features clarified in the claims as to the stored “terminal information” are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

With respect to the features of the stored “terminal information” as previously written the outstanding Office Action cited Carolan particularly with respect to the router 130 and the disclosure at column 4, line 31 to column 5, line 2.²

In reply to that grounds for the rejection, applicants note Carolan discloses a router 130 in Figure 1 that belongs to the network 120 and can separate IP traffic to/from multiple services or service providers. Carolan further discloses the router 130 in receiving an

¹ Specification for example at page 2, lines 12-20 and page 51, lines 21-34.

² Office Action of August 13, 2009, page 3, line 16 *et seq.*

incoming packet “applies the packet filtering rules, and compares the source IP address in the packet header to a list of addresses allocated to subscribers to a first service provider, e.g., operating service network 151”.³ That is, in Carolan the router 130 that belongs to network 120 stores a source IP address of a contractor of service network 151 and an address list.

In contrast to Carolan, in each of new independent claims 17 and 18 as currently written a (LCoA) or (RCoA) received from a mobile terminal and that includes a network prefix of an access router or a transfer device is stored in a terminal information storage unit.

With that claimed structure, without a transfer device managed by a second communications carrier, it is possible to transfer a packet to a mobile terminal connected to an access router managed by the second communications carrier. Thereby, in the claimed invention a user of a mobile terminal does not have to join a mobility control service of the second communication carrier, which applicants submit is not addressed or realized in the applied art.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicants submit Carolan does not disclose or suggest terminal information that is stored including at least either of a link care of address (LCoA) or a regional care of address (RCoA) as now clarified in the claims as written.

Thereby, applicants respectfully submit each of independent claims 17 and 18 as currently written positively recite features neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

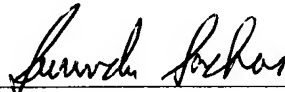
In view of the present response applicants respectfully submit each of independent claims 17 and 18 are allowable over the applied art.

³ Carolan at column 4, lines 51-54.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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